

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 H-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /052 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8492

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - UK AIRPORT AND NAVIGATION CHARGES

REF: LONDON 1399

1. JIM WILKS,(UNDER SECRETARY, DEPT. OF TRADE) OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR BRITISH AIRPORT AUTHORITY CALLED US FEB. 20 TO SAY THAT UK HAD BEEN WAITING TO HEAR WHETHER WE INTENDED TO FOLLOW-UP ON POINTS WE HAD RAISED IN JAN 24 BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING PROPOSED INCREASES IN BAA LANDING CHARGES BUT IN ABSENCE OF US APPROACH BAA PROPOSAL FOR 35 PERCENT INCREASE IN CHARGES HAD BEEN REVIEWED BY MINISTERS AND APPROVED. WILKS SAID HE PLANS TO INFORM BAA ON FEB. 24 THAT IT CAN GO AHEAD WITH PROPOSED INCREASES. UK WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE WILLING MEET WITH US AT ANY TIME TO EXPLAIN RATIONALE FOR INCREASES AND BREAKDOWN OF CHARGES.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, WILKS SAID BAA HAS NOT INCREASED ITS CHARGES FOR THREE YEARS AND BECAUSE OF INFLATION, EVEN WITH PLANNED INCREASES, BAA'S 1975 CHARGES, IN REAL TERMS, WILL BE LOWER THAN IN 1972. BECAUSE OF INFLATION AND DECLINE IN TRAFFIC, WILKS SAID, BAA'S INCREASES ARE ONLY HALF AS HIGH AS THEY SHOULD BE TO RECOUP FULLY FINANCIAL POSITION BAA ACHIEVED IN 1972. WILKS CLEARLY

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IMPLIED THAT A FURTHER INCREASE IN CHARGES IS BEING

CONTEMPLATED FOR 1976.

3. /WE BELIEVE IT IS PROBABLY TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT INCREASES WHICH ARE TO GO INTO EFFECT APRIL 1. HOWEVER, IF US COULD FIELD TEAM FOR BILATERAL TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT DURING WEEK OF FEB. 24 WE COULD ATTEMPT TO GET WILKS TO HOLD UP FINAL APPROVAL OF BAA INCREASES UNTIL AFTER WE HAVE MADE OUR CASE. IF WE ARE TO DO THIS WE WOULD HAVE TO BE INFORMED BY C.O.B. FEB. 21. IF THIS TIME FRAME IS IMPRACTICAL, WE NEVERTHELESS BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HOLD TALKS WITH BRITISH ON ISSUE OF AIRPORT CHARGES IN NEAR FUTURE IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO: (A) GAIN BETTER INSIGHT INTO UK RATIONALE FOR INCREASES; AND (B) TRY TO HEAD OFF INCREASES THAT MAY BE ADOPTED FOR 1976. PLEASE ADVISE.

SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, LANDING TAXES, AIRPORTS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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